

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

23rd August 2010

Trustees Present: Andrew Walker (Chair), Dorothy Dinnie (Vice Chair), Jean McLeod, Charles Insch, Robert Dinnie (Patron)

Apologies: Gary Grant

In Attendance: Jack Holt, Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

1. Introduction

AW welcomed everyone, noted one apology and thanked all for attending.

2. Minutes of Last Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting on 29th June were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising (*not dealt with elsewhere on Agenda*)

None

4. Administration

4.1 Management accounts. End Qtr 2 management accounts were tabled and discussed. It was agreed that the new format gave a clearer picture of the day to day running of the Trust. CI queried whether each department should have a budget. Trustees decided to review expenditure at the end of 2010, and use this as a benchmark for 2011. BCT's accounts with the Clydesdale Bank are to be updated to make AW Principal User

4.2 Trust's Accountant. One local member was approached, but unfortunately declined. RP to investigate other possible candidates.

4.3 Form 288a outstanding for GG. RP to follow up.

4.4 Outstanding site visits. Robin Callander, Stan Moyes and David Duncan to be approached to enquire whether Saturday 25th September, 1 p.m. would be suitable for a Mills visit.

Robin Callander to be approached to enquire whether Saturday 2nd October, 1 p.m. would be suitable for a Forest of Birse visit. RP to action.

Community Woods and School Woods visits to be tacked on to one of the above.

5. Management

5.1 Projects & Properties.

Commonly – Bracken control completed by local squad

Slewdrum – 1200 m track completed – invoiced to BCo

Deeside Way – Discussions on-going, draft spec received. Route agreed from Shooting Greens to Potarch, essentially along the roadside.

Balfour Forest – Thinning contract won by Tilhill, work to start imminently. A lock has been put on the barrier. The Trustees' visit took place on Saturday August 21st.

Birse Kirk and Hall - The Trustees' visit took place on Saturday August 21st.

Soutar's Shop - The Trustees' visit took place on Saturday August 21st. It was noted that there is a need to dig/clear vegetation from the base of the external cladding at the east end, and there is evidence of woodworm in the shop. AW to action. There is a small blue flower at the front steps. DD

to investigate species.
Forests Management Plan – Scoping is underway, with a public meeting on Wednesday 25th August.
Old School/Archive – Slates/gutters. DD to follow up with Gavin Dinnie

Birse Graveyard Extension - RP reported that he had attended a site meeting with Graham Wall from Aberdeenshire Council and Robin Callander on Thursday 19th August. The Council is keen to proceed with the extension and to that end is preparing to obtain planning permission in the near future. With regard to land ownership, the Council is willing to work with the community to obtain a satisfactory solution. However, there has been no response from the agent for the landowner since Dec '09, when he promised to investigate the situation. RC continues to follow up on this.

Bucket Mill – RP tabled minutes from a meeting with Stan Moyes and Robin Callander. on 11th August. The Trustees approved the essential electrical safety work.

Sawmill – Talks with David Duncan ongoing

5.2 Strategic Plan – RC to draft and circulate to Trustees for comment

5.3 Website – RP to ascertain what progress has been made. A counter should be added to record hits.

5.4 BTCo – The Trustees discussed the fact that Brian Page has stood down as Director, leaving Paul Chapman and Christine Wright. The appointment of a new director is BTCo's responsibility.

5.5 ETBK/BACA/BCT Meeting. - The annual ETBK/BACA/BCT meeting took place on Thursday 19th August. Draft minutes will be distributed in due course.

6. AOB

- 6.1 It was noted that RC is writing a piece about Balfour Forest for November issue of The Leopard.
- 6.2 RP to enquire whether current owners of South Manse still have the original notice board for the Kirk
- 6.3 Trustees, family and friends were well looked after on a visit to Birkhall Gardens on 28th July. It proved interesting and informative, and was enjoyed by all.
- 6.4 The visit to Knockando Wool Mill on Tuesday July 6th was equally absorbing. It is hoped that BCT can supply the larch to repair the wheel.
- 6.5 Trustees noted with interest an article on Balfour Forest in the Deeside Piper from August 6th, showing Elizabeth Clements from SNH presenting RC with a cheque for £19,000

The next meeting will be on 27th September 2010, followed by 1st November 2010
– both 7pm Old School.

Signed.....
Date.....

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